Fire in IOC depot at Jaipur

†553. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of dead and injured people and the amount of property destroyed by fire which broke out in Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) oil depot in Jaipur;

(b) whether the family of dead and injured people has been compensated;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the fire was due to human error;

(e) whether a committee would be constituted to investigate the reasons of the fire; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government for the security of oil depot?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) 11 deaths have been confirmed of which 06 are employees of IOC. 07 persons have suffered serious injuries. 28 persons have suffered minor injuries, in the fire incident of IOC oil depot at Jaipur.

(b) and (c) Details of compensation package are as under:

Types of cases	No. of cases	Announced by State Govt.	Disbursed by State Govt.	Announced by IOC	Disbursed by IOC
Death	11 (includes 6 cases of IOC employees)	Rs.2.0 Lakh/case	1 of public and 6 of IOC	Rs. 10.00 Lakh/case	1 of public
Major injury	7	Rs. 1.0 Lakh /case	7	Rs.2.0 Lakh/case	17
Minor Injury	28	Rs. 0.50 Lakh/case	28	Rs. 1.0 lakh/case	19

Out of 11 cases (including 6 cases of IOC employees) of death, State Govt. has not been able to disburse to the next of kin in 4 cases as one victim is unidentified and in 3 cases, next of kin is not yet finalized.

For the 6 deceased persons of IOC, compensation has been given in line with the corporation policy, which is 100 times of basic pay and dearness allowance.

Out of 28 cases of minor injury cases, IOC could disburse to 19 cases and for the balance 9 cases, due to incomplete / inaccurate address, compensation could not be disbursed. Correct address of these persons to be provided by state government.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) to (f) A seven member inquiry committee under the chairmanship of Shri M.B. Lai, Technical Member (P&NG), Appellate Tribunal for Electricity and Ex-Chairman & Managing Director of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited was constituted by the Ministry on 30.10.2009 to inquire into the causes of the incident and to suggest remedial measures to prevent recurrence of such incidents. The committee will submit its report within 60 days. Preliminary findings have indicated that there was massive leakage of Motor Spirit (MS) from the valve of one of the tank, which let formation of vapour cloud. Spark from an unknown source resulted in explosion of the vapour cloud, which started the fire in all the 11 tanks of the depot.

In order to take preventive steps so that such incidents do not occur in future, the Ministry had convened a meeting on 3.11.2009, to review the safety and security at oil & gas installations in the country, which was attended by the Chief Executive Officers of all public and major private oil companies having installations in the country. It was decided that the following actions will be taken:

1. All companies shall take measures to promote safety consciousness and training on safety requirement at all levels. The message of zero tolerance in matters of safety has to be conveyed to all concerned.

2. All oil and gas installations and transportation systems in the country will carry out self safety audit conforming to statutory norms and risk assessment, including Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD) standards by 31.12.2009. Oil companies will submit the reports to OISD which in turn will submit a consolidated report to MOPNG.

3. The decision taken in the 27th Meeting of safety Council held on 18th September 2009 in MOPNG regarding empowerment of OISD with statutory status would be expedited. OISD will be further strengthened with additional manpower from oil companies.

4. The Safety Council be expanded to include private sector refineries and offshore & other installations.

5. All oil and gas companies in the country must update their standard operating procedures (SOPs) for operations and maintenance practices for all countrywide installations / setups under due technical supervision and attention, availing the benefit of best practices in the country and abroad. A strict implementation of such Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs) will be ensured. All oil and gas companies will submit reports on SOPs and its due implementation to OISD by 31.12.2009.

6. All oil and gas installations will have their safety audit done on quarterly basis. All major as well as minor incidents in any such installations/setups in the country including that of private companies will be reported to OISD.